Stormwater Control Measures (SCM)

What is a Grassy Swale?

Grassy swales reduce and slow down the flow of stormwater runoff and filter out some of the pollutants.

Properly maintained

Improperly Maintained—erosion

Maintaining and Inspecting Your Stormwater Control Measure

Property owners are responsible for inspecting and maintaining SCMs on their property. A maintenance and inspection document for your SCM is included with your property deed. These documents are available through the Metro Nashville Register of Deeds.

Typical Inspection and Maintenance Concerns Include:

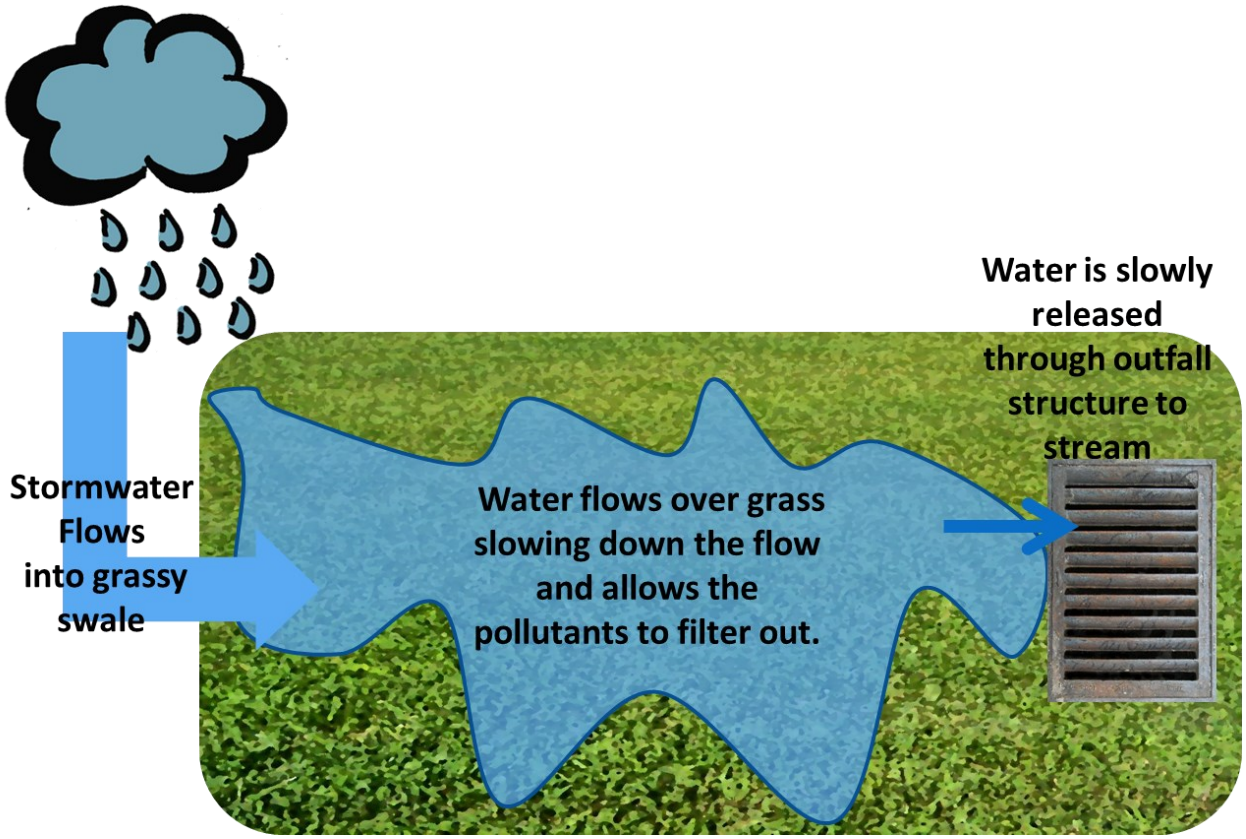
- Observe the bed, is there a healthy stand of grass? Is there any erosion? Is there any standing water? Is there any trash?
- Are trees and shrubs starting to grow within the channel that need to be controlled?
- Inspect outlet– is it clogged or filled with trash or sediment (soils)?
- How long does it take to drain? Visit the grassed swale site within 24 hours of a rain storm and see if there is ponding.
- Maintain grass, do not mow too short and mow less frequently than normal turf. Ensure that grass is well established or erosion will occur.
- If maintenance needs are identified during the inspection, ensure that it is performed in a timely manner to prevent larger problems from occurring in the future.

For detailed inspection and maintenance requirements of your specific SCM, see maintenance agreement document filed with your property deed.

For more information visit **scm.nashville.gov** or call Metro Water Services at (615) 880-2420.

METRO WATER SERVICES

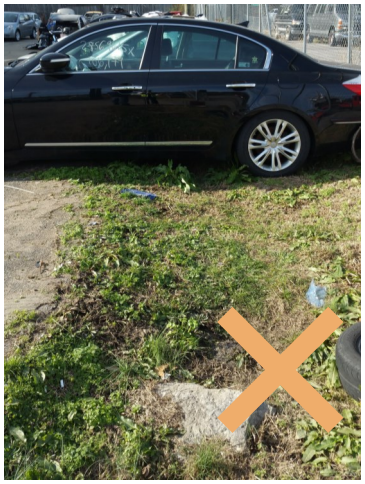
How does a Grassy Swale work?



Grassy swales have flat bottoms and lots of grass that helps rain runoff spread out and slow down. Sediment (soil) and other pollutants are filtered out as the water soaks into the ground. Grassy swales have taller grass and need to be mowed less often than normal turf areas.

Grassy Swale: Common Issues and Concerns

Use of a weed killer in grassy swales kills grass and lead to increased erosion



Grassy swale being compacted by a vehicle and decreasing infiltration and increasing erosion